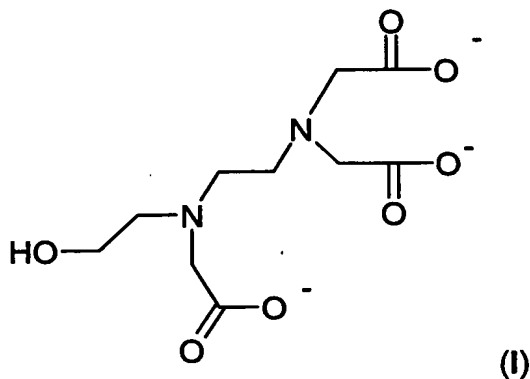


**Claims**

1. An aqueous solution comprising a sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of the chelating compound of formula I:



5                    wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$ .

2. The aqueous solution according to claim 1 comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of the chelating compound of formula I wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$ .

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3. A container comprising at least 0.5kg of an aqueous solution according to claim 1 or 2.

4. Use of an aqueous solution according to claim 1 or 2 for making an iron-chelate complex.

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5. A method of preparing an aqueous solution comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of the chelating compound of formula I wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$  from the trisodium salt of N-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylenediamine-N,N',N'-triacetic acid ( $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$ ), comprising the step of electrodialysing at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  an aqueous solution containing less than 42 wt% of  $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$ , or at a different

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temperature at maximally the concentration whereby the viscosity is the same or lower than the viscosity of the 42wt% Na<sub>3</sub>-HEDTA solution at 20°C, using a bipolar and a cation membrane, thereby converting the Na<sub>3</sub>-HEDTA solution to the solution of the sodium salt xNa<sup>+</sup>yH<sup>+</sup> of formula I wherein x = 2.1 – 2.7, y = 0.9 – 0.3, and x + y = 3.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein a caustic electrolyte is used.